

# Irish Haiku Society



## Irish Haiku Society Constitution

### 1. Name

The name of the Organisation shall be the Irish Haiku Society.

### 2. Objects

- (a) To organise haiku writers in Ireland
- (b) To offer advice and assistance to individual members in relation to haiku writing and publication of their work.
- (c) To encourage the reading and writing of haiku by a broader public, and to help raise the standards of haiku writing by its members.
- (d) To contribute to educational policy insofar as it relates to the art of writing haiku and related forms and to the use of haiku in the educational system.
- (e) To relate to other haiku groups and societies, both in Ireland and abroad.
- (f) To engage in such other activities as may be determined by the Board as conducive to the interests of promoting Haiku in Ireland, e.g. workshops, readings, ginko, seminars, conferences, publications, competitions, broadcasts, etc.

### 3. Membership

Membership of the Irish Haiku Society is free of charge and can be one of three categories, guest, ordinary and honorary.

- (a) Guest membership and publication of work on the society's website, as well as in other publications, are available for everyone, following application and approval of the Board. Guest membership of the Irish Haiku Society is open to everybody with an interest in haiku and related forms.
- (b) The Board offers Ordinary (full) membership to the guest members based on the island of Ireland (or who are Irish by birth, adoption or association, but live abroad).

- (c) Honorary membership is offered to a poet(s) of the Board's choosing. Such offer must be proposed and seconded by Board members before they can be debated and voted by the Board. The Board member can withdraw or change the offer of honorary membership at any time before the board have voted on the matter.
- (d) Guest membership and ordinary membership of the Irish Haiku Society does not constitute a professional qualification or recommendation, and should not be considered as such.

#### **4. Structure**

The Society shall be constituted as follows:

##### **(a) Congress**

- (i) Congress shall be the governing body of the Society.
- (ii) Congress shall consist of those who are members under rules 3 b and 3 c under membership.
- (iii) Congress shall meet at least once every year unless exceptional circumstances prevent this from happening.
- (iv) At Congress the chair shall be taken by the chairperson and in his/her absence by a chairperson elected by the Board and approved by Congress.
- (v) Motions for Congress shall be submitted to the Board four weeks before Congress takes place, at the latest, and shall bear the signatures of the proposers.
- (vi) The Board shall be responsible for the preparation of the Congress agenda, and for issuing to each member, so entitled, at least two weeks prior to the opening of the Congress. A copy of the agenda, which shall contain the motions, shall be submitted to Congress. The agenda shall also contain the honorary secretary's report, and the honorary treasurer's report, provision for the election of board members and trustees and other information, if any relevant to the agenda.
- (vii) The Board may call a Special Congress at any time. A Board when convening a Special Congress shall give notice to each member of not less than three weeks, such notice to state the purpose for which the Special Congress is being called and the agenda.
- (viii) In an emergency situation, the Board, while convening a Special Congress, may give notice to each member of not less than three days.
- (ix) The Chairperson shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the discussion at Congress.

- (x) Voting at the congress shall be by a show of hands. The Board may allow e-mail voting by members living abroad, or in exceptional circumstances.
- (xi) The Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote should the vote be equally divided.
- (xii) All motions must be proposed and seconded before they can be debated by congress. A motion that hasn't been seconded shall be debated by congress if not less than two thirds of its members present and voting support it.
- (xiii) To terminate discussion, a motion that the discussion be terminated shall be moved and seconded without discussion.
- (xiv) The ruling of the Chairperson on all points of order or the adopted order of business shall be final, unless the ruling is challenged. The challenger shall have the right to give reasons for challenging the ruling, and the Chairperson shall reply briefly. The challenge shall be successful if not less than two thirds of the members of Congress present and voting support it.

(b) **Board**

The Board shall consist of:

- The Chairperson
- The Honorary Secretary
- The Honorary Treasurer
- The Event organiser
- The Webmaster
- The Publication Officer

The Board shall elect the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer from amongst its members. If a vacancy occurs in these three offices, the Board shall elect someone from amongst its members to fill the vacancy in an acting capacity.

The Chairperson, honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of the Society shall, while holding these offices, be Trustees of the Society. All property, investments and funds belonging to the Society shall be held under the legal Control of the Trustees. The Trustees may retain on current or deposit account in any bank or banks approved by the board, and in the name of the Irish Haiku Society, such moneys as they in their discretion consider necessary or desirable for the purpose of meeting current expenses or charges.

Cheques for the withdrawal of moneys from such account or accounts shall be signed by any two Trustees. Any Trustee who resigns or is removed from office shall do whatever is legally necessary to vest in the trustees for the time being all funds and property held by another or jointly with him/her on behalf of the Society.

The Board shall

- a) carry out the instructions of Congress
- b) manage, superintend and direct the affairs of the Society
- c) execute and enforce observance of the Rules of the Society
- d) be responsible for the administration of the General Fund and such Special Funds as may be created from time to time
- e) make representations and negotiate with any person or bodies or any authority on behalf of the organisation.
- f) have the power to direct the Trustees to institute legal proceedings against any member, former member, employee, former employee, or any other party, to protect the Society funds or interests
- g) have the power to fine, suspend or expel a member of the Society in accordance with the rules
- h) have power to decide all questions where the rules are not specific

The Board members shall be elected by Congress from the year following the year of the foundation of the Society for a term of office lasting until the conclusion of the next Congress held in the year following their election. Congress shall elect not less than three and not more than seven members of the Board. The Board shall have the power to fill vacancies in it by co-opting of ordinary members of the Society.

The Board shall meet at least three times a year and at other such times as the Chairperson or the majority of the members of the board shall decide.

Three Board members, two of whom shall be Trustees, shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

## **5. Constitutional Amendments**

Changes may only be made to this constitution by Congress or Special Congress. Any such changes must be carried by a majority of at least two thirds of those present and voting. Such changes will come into effect at the conclusion of the congress at which they have been approved.

## **6. Copies of the Constitution**

One copy of the Constitution shall be given freely to each member when admitted to full membership.

**7. Dissolution of the Society**

The Society shall be dissolved by Congress on a majority vote of five-sixths of the members present and voting, provided that such a proposal appears on the agenda. Any surplus funds left over and above any debts or expenses for which the society is liable have been provided for, shall be donated by the trustees to a not-for-profit organisation(s) operating in Ireland for the purposes of promoting literary activity.

*The Constitution was adopted by the total membership of the Irish Haiku Society in February 2007.*